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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
 (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference 62,737A | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/US 03/39036 | International filing date (day/month/year) 05.12.2003 | Priority date (day/month/year) 06.12.2002 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A01N47/22 | | |
| Applicant DOW AGROSCIENCES LLC et al. | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

| | |
|--|---|
| Date of submission of the demand 19.05.2004 | Date of completion of this report 30.06.2004 |
| Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465 | Authorized Officer Bertrand, F Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8606 |



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US 03/39036

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-49 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-8 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US 03/39036

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|--------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: | Claims | 1-8 |
| | No: | Claims | |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: | Claims | 1-8 |
| | No: | Claims | |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: | Claims | 1-8 |
| | No: | Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US 03/39036

Re Item I

Basis of the report

The documents mentioned in this International Preliminary Examination Report are numbered in accordance with the order they appear in the International Search Report.

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

The present invention relates to a synergistic fungicidal composition containing a first compound of formula III or IIIa as set out in claim 1 and a second compound from a list given in claim 1.

The first compounds are known from D1 and D2. Many of the second compounds are known from D3 to show synergistic fungicidal activities with certain other fungicides which are different from the first compounds. None of the cited documents teach synergistic fungicidal compositions containing the first compounds, let alone specifically with the second compounds listed in claim 1. Due to the specificity and to the unpredictable aspect of synergy, the present invention is believed to be new and to involve an inventive step.

The fungicidal activity is shown throughout the whole description as directed to crop protection. Therefore, the present invention is industrially applicable. For sake of completeness, the phytopathogenic target should have been mentioned somehow in the claims, as in certain regional/national phases the wording of claim 8 can be considered to encompass methods of therapy (fungicidal treatment on an animal/human being). Claim 8 could then be deprived from industrial applicability and/or be excluded for non-patentability.